



## COMMITTEE PROGRAM No. 7

1950



# Highlights of the Committee Conventions 1950



### GREATNESS

A man is as great as the dreams he dreams,  
As great as the love he bears,  
As great as the values he redeems,  
And the happiness he shares.

A man is as great as the truth he speaks,  
As great as the help he gives,  
As great as the destiny he seeks,  
As great as the life he lives.

—Clarence Edwin Flynn

**SASKATCHEWAN  
CO-OPERATIVE PRODUCERS  
LIMITED**

**Regina, Sask.**



## JULY 1950

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# Highlights of the Committee Conventions 1950

It was on a clear, quiet morning in early June when a District Representative and a Wheat Pool Director drove up to a Community Hall to be on hand for the sub-district Wheat Pool Committee Convention.

The local chairman and secretary and Wheat Pool delegate were already there. Greetings were exchanged, and soon other delegates drove up. At 10 a.m., there was the registration of committee men and visitors. Then the Committee Convention got under way.

Charts were hung up by the District Representative, the table arranged with the minutes of last year's meeting along with this year's agenda, and a scribbler for recording the proceedings of the meeting.

The delegate called the meeting to order at 10.30 a.m. A chairman and a secretary were elected and took their places. So opened one of the 128 Committee Conventions held this year covering 166 sub-districts.

## SECRETARIES' REPORT

First came the report of the secretary of each Committee. These reports really provide the working basis for the day's meeting. The committees and secretaries are far too modest about acquainting others with the work done by the committees during the year. Most of us need to be inspired before

we can do our best work. Facts and figures are not enough. We must have some inspiration. In each community the local leadership usually supplies that inspiration, but sometimes the delegate for the sub-district must help out.

Today a number of young people are on the Wheat Pool Committees, and they are aware of the value of being organized. A number of the veterans who make up the Smoky Burn Co-operative Farm attended their first Committee Convention at Aylsham, and took an active part in the meeting. At Nora, the secretary of the Convention was a young lady who won the Wheat Pool Oratorical Contest in sub-district 6, district 14. Boys and girls, who are test plot supervisors, attended most conventions and gave explanations and reports on this valuable work. Members and leaders of Junior Clubs gave reports on their club activities, and emphasized the importance of the lessons they were learning in "working together."

One of the best reports was given by a lady who is secretary of a Wheat Pool Committee. She gave a concise word picture of the community activities that had been sponsored in one way or another by the Wheat Pool committee in her community during the last twenty-five years. Listening to this report an outsider could get a pretty accurate picture of the "good neighbor" spirit which is necessary to a healthy community life. This topsy-turvy world would be better if we had more nations following the example of this particular community. Throughout all the Committee Conventions the best results appeared where the delegate met his committees on several occasions through the year.

## THE DELEGATE

The delegate summed up the committee report, and tied together the co-operative strength and activities in his sub-district. He gave the Convention an outline of the co-operative possibilities in his sub-district, and visions of a better community and a better world for all. The delegate thanked the committee men and members for the co-operation

that had been given to him throughout the year.

## **POOL AND CO-OP FLOUR**

The question of the sales of Pool and Co-op flour was considered by most committees, and some action was taken. Some committees were very active in furthering the sale of Pool flour, and stressed the importance of the individual's responsibility. The committee can promote sales by "talking" Pool flour, and if twenty-five additional families bought Pool flour in every community in Saskatchewan, most of our worries about the flour mill would be wiped out.

## **WESTERN PRODUCER**

The majority of the committees reported action on the Western Producer subscription campaign, and some of the canvassers are getting 100% co-operation from agents and committee men with outstanding results. As one committee man said, "There's no reason why our local youngsters can't do as good a job as a sheet-writer."

## **DELIVERIES**

Deliveries to Pool Elevators is of great importance. Agents, committee men, and members cannot afford to side-step this issue by merely saying that "their point needs more space." Additional space is undoubtedly needed at some points, but holding back some grain on the farm during the very heavy delivery season in September and October is definitely part of Orderly Marketing. About 75% of the crop in Saskatchewan is delivered during August, September, and October.

One travelling superintendent told of the work of the committee men, agents, and delegates in one sub-district since 1932. This is the story: In 1932 there were 14 Line Elevators open at 7 shipping points, and we had one Pool Elevator at each point. Since then we have purchased 3 of these Line Elevators and one Line Elevator was de-

molished. Today there are 10 Pool Elevators and 10 Line Elevators, and the Pool handled 79.5% of the grain in this sub-district this year. In answer to whether or not they still had a "space problem," "Yes, we handled about one-half million bushels in about a month at these 10 Pool Elevators, but there were many growers who certainly co-operated, and we got along and even increased deliveries a bit over the previous year." The personnel of these committees changed as well as the agents and delegates, but throughout the eighteen years there was real team work to bring about this result.

## **LIVESTOCK**

There were some excellent reports on the work being done in the co-operative assembling, shipping, and marketing of livestock. The majority of the Calf Clubs in the Province are sponsored by Wheat Pool committees. The interest in Junior Calf Clubs may be taken as further evidence of the importance of livestock to farm income. The farmer sees the things he needs in the price he receives for what he has to sell, and the better results can be secured by marketing through co-operative channels.

From August 1st, 1949, to April 30th, 1950, your Saskatchewan Co-operative Livestock Producers Limited handled 284,240 head. Of these, 127,000 head were handled and shipped to Canadian Livestock Co-operative (Western) Limited, St. Boniface, and 157,292 were handled through the seven Saskatchewan Livestock Pool agencies in the Province, and sold to Saskatchewan Packers, to eastern or U.S. feeders, etc. This sale of 157,000 head certainly kept the pressure off the St. Boniface markets, and the farmers received a better price.

The Pool owns four yards, situated at North Battleford, Yorkton, Swift Current, and Regina; and has agencies at the three yards owned by Stockyard Companies at Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Moose Jaw. The Pool handled 81,404 head through our own yards, and the remainder of 75,888 at the other yards. Of the total livestock marketed in Saskatchewan, the Pool handled 38% of

the cattle and calves, 36% of the hogs, and 39% of the sheep and lambs.

The livestock delivered to your own Selling Agencies on these markets are handled by fully experienced, salaried employees, who have no other interest but to procure for the producer the highest possible price for his livestock. These men are not buyers of livestock, but salesmen, who are in a position to know the value of the stock they are selling at the time it is offered for sale. By distributing the various classes to the buyers who are willing to pay the most money, salesmen obtain the highest possible price for the producers.

The farmer should insist that his shipper or trucker makes out a manifest clearly showing the farmer's name and address, number and kind of livestock shipped, his livestock identification marks, and Saskatchewan Co-operative Livestock Producers Limited as the destination.

## **WHEAT AGREEMENTS**

The U.K. Agreement, International Wheat Agreement, and the Final Settlement for the 5-year pool, were dealt with by the director and many questions were asked. Farm and town people alike are interested and depend upon continued markets and fair prices as they know the weakness of the Speculative Market. The Wheat Board's method of marketing can give fair prices and stability over a period of time; can carry surpluses; can market to meet consumer needs; can meet present day world problems; can handle grain at cost; can encourage all-out production because the grower need not fear rock-bottom prices under surpluses.

## **COUNTRY ORGANIZATION**

The District Representative never goes to bed without a thought for all who make up Country Organization. The community makes progress when there is "team-work." To arrive at understanding and secure teamwork there must be meetings, then planning and action. There are three types

of meetings: Committee, Shareholders, and Public.

Active Wheat Pool committees are vital to the whole co-operative, and are an important factor in building and tying together public opinion in matters affecting the marketing of farm products. Through their organized efforts, the farmers have done much to reduce man-made risks in the marketing of their crops. They have the protection, first of all of their own system of elevators. They have a Wheat Board which has replaced Speculative Marketing, a guaranteed initial payment, and prices guaranteed by International Agreement—an advance in marketing methods which organized farmers themselves have done much to bring about. Therefore, Country Organization is the farmers' protection.

From August 1st, 1949, to May 31st, 1950, 1,070 of the 1,160 Wheat Pool committees have reported re-organization, and 621 have reported holding four or more meetings during the ten months. In the same period of time, district representatives have attended 2,286 meetings of one kind or another, at which there was a total attendance of 108,537.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The director outlined the construction program for 1950, which includes 6 elevators and 55 annexes.

From 1925 to 1949, savings amounting to \$26,771,804.04 have been returned to Pool members in cash or credits. During the past ten years, \$8,447,581.00 in Elevator deductions have been purchased and transferred to patron members. This is 45.039% of the total \$18,755,911.24 provided by the Pool members in 1925 to 1929.

## **FUTURE POLICY**

Following the director's report and the discussion period, resolutions were presented covering a number of problems which had to deal with the farmers' welfare. The main resolutions included:

(1) That this Convention go on record as favoring the continuance of the Wheat

Board's handling of all grains and the exclusion of the Speculative Market.

(2) That the Wheat Board do away with the practice of basing the selling price of coarse grains on the futures market.

(3) That we protest the lowering of the initial payment of wheat while the cost of production is rising.

(4) That we ask the Federal Government to bring the price for domestic wheat used during the two years 1945-1947 to the price paid under the British Contract.

(5) That as it has been indicated that the final Wheat Board payment on the 5-year pool may be approximately 5 cents per bushel, and bearing in mind the "have regard to" clause contained in the U.K. Agreement; therefore, be it resolved that we request a substantial final payment.

(6) That we protest the recent freight rate increases granted to the railroads.

(7) That this Convention approves of the policy in regard to the grading and marketing of grain and livestock.

(8) That we consider present rate of mileage at 10c per mile too high.

## CONCLUSION

So the day ended with a bountiful meal prepared by a group of ladies in the community who were working in harmony for our pleasure and in aid of some church or community project.

"I like to see a man proud of the place in which he lives. I like to see a man live so that his place will be proud of him."

—Abraham Lincoln.